

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA REMOVING THE AGRICULTURAL MITIGATION FOR PRIME FARMLAND FROM THE CERTIFIED FINAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SCH #202100641) FOR THE EAST SIDE OVERLAY PROJECT AND ADOPTING THE REVISED MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Lancaster City Council approved the Lancaster East Side Overlay Project and certified the associated Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH# 2022100641) with the required findings and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on August 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the certification of the Final EIR it has been determined that the mitigation measure for Prime Farmland is infeasible and unnecessary due to circumstances surrounding agricultural production in the Antelope Valley; and

WHEREAS, Section 15074.1(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines allows mitigation measures to be modified, replaced, or removed subject to a public hearing and written findings that the action will not cause any potentially significant effects on the environment based on substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, public notice was published and given as required by law, and a public hearing was held on July 9, 2024, before the City Council; and

WHEREAS, substantial evidence was presented that Prime Farmland is converting to non-agricultural uses due to outside forces unrelated to proposed or future development within the Lancaster Eastside Overlay Project including availability of water and an increased demand for housing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to remove the agricultural mitigation measure regarding Prime Farmland and adopt the revised Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the foregoing Recitals are true, correct and a substantive part of this Resolution.
2. That the City Council hereby adopts the following findings, in accordance with Section 15074.1(b) of the CEQA Guidelines:

- a. Agricultural land in Los Angeles County, particularly in the Antelope Valley, is being converted to non-agricultural uses due to outside forces unrelated to proposed or future development within the Lancaster Eastside Overlay Project.
- b. The reduction in groundwater pumping due to the adjudication makes agricultural production of alfalfa, onions, and carrots less feasible due to the water intensive nature of these crops. As a result, land owners are ceasing agricultural production which ultimately leads to the land no longer being eligible for listing as Prime Farmland by the State as it is no longer producing sustained high yields or being irrigated.
- c. State mandates and legislation requiring an increase in housing production have placed additional pressure on available land for housing developments, making the conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural uses more attractive.
- d. Conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses is occurring independently of any proposed or future development within the Eastside Overlay area. As such, any potential project would not have a significant impact on agricultural resources (Prime Farmland) and no mitigation is warranted.

2. That the City Council hereby removes the agricultural resources mitigation measure addressing Prime Farmland from the Certified Final Program EIR for the Eastside Overlay Project (SCH# 2022100641),

3. That the City Council hereby adopts the revised Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Eastside Overlay Project.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

ANDREA ALEXANDER
City Clerk
City of Lancaster

R. REX PARRIS
Mayor
City of Lancaster

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss
CITY OF LANCASTER)

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION
CITY COUNCIL

I, _____, _____ City of Lancaster, California, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution No. _____, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)
